

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A catalyst comprising

(A) a tantalum compound, and

(B) an organic metal compound, wherein the organic metal compound (B) comprises at least one group selected from the group consisting of the following (1) to (5):

(1) a branched or cycloalkyl-substituted primary alkyl group having 4 to 15 carbon atoms,

(2) an aryl-substituted primary alkyl group having 7 to 15 carbon atoms,

(3) a 3-alkenyl group having 4 to 15 carbon atoms,

(4) a secondary alkyl group having 3 to 15 carbon atoms which may be substituted with an aryl group or a cyclic alkyl group having 3 to 15 carbon atoms, and

(5) a secondary alkenyl group having 4 to 15 carbon atoms.

2. (Original) The catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the tantalum compound (A) is a tantalum halide.

3. (Currently Amended) The catalyst according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the organic metal compound (B) comprises at least one group selected from the group consisting of isopropyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, homo-allyl, cyclopentylmethyl, cyclohexylmethyl, 1-phenethyl, and 2-phenethyl groups.

4. (Currently Amended) The catalyst according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the organic metal compound (B) comprises isobutyl group.

5. (Currently Amended) The catalyst according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the organic metal compound (B) is an isopropylmagnesium halide, an isobutylmagnesium halide, a sec-butylmagnesium halide, a cyclopentylmagnesium halide, a cyclohexylmagnesium halide, a 1-phenethylmagnesium halide, a 2-phenethylmagnesium halide, isopropyllithium, isobutyllithium, sec-butyllithium, cyclopentyllithium, cyclohexyllithium, 1-phenethylolithium, 2-phenethylolithium, triisopropylaluminum, triisobutylaluminum, tri-sec-butylaluminum, tricyclohexylaluminum, isobutylaluminum dichloride, diisobutylaluminum chloride, a diisobutylaluminum halide, a modified methylaluminoxane, isobutylaluminoxane, tetraisopropyltin, isopropyltrimethyltin, tetraisobutyltin or a diisobutyltin dihalide.

6. (Currently Amended) The catalyst according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the organic metal compound (B) is triisobutylaluminum, a modified methylaluminoxane, or isobutylaluminoxane.

7. (Currently Amended) The catalyst according to claim 1, any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the amount of the organic metal compound (B) is from 0.5 to 3 moles in terms of the alkyl group(s) per mole of the tantalum compound (A).

8. (Currently Amended) The catalyst according to claim 1, any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the olefin is ethylene.

9. (Currently Amended) The catalyst according to claim 1, any one of claims 1 to 8, which is obtained by contacting the tantalum compound (A) with the organic metal compound (B).

10. (Currently Amended) An olefin-trimerizing process, which comprises trimerizing an olefin in the presence of the catalyst according to claim 1, any one of claims 1 to 9.

11. (Original) The olefin-trimerizing process according to claim 10, which is carried out at an absolute pressure of from normal pressure to a pressurized pressure.

12. (Original) The olefin-trimerizing process according to claim 11, wherein the absolute pressure is from normal pressure to 30 MPa.

13. (Currently Amended) The olefin-trimerizing process according to claim 10, any one of claims 10 to 12, which is carried out at a temperature of 150°C or lower.

14. (Original) The olefin-trimerizing process according to claim 13, which is carried out at a temperature of 10 to 80°C.

15. (Currently Amended) The olefin-trimerizing process according to claim 10, any one of claims 10 to 14, which is carried out in the presence of a solvent.

16. (Original) The olefin-trimerizing process according to claim 15, wherein the solvent is an aromatic compound.

17. (Original) The olefin-trimerizing process according to claim 15, wherein the solvent is at least one selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, xylene, chlorobenzene and dichlorobenzene.

18. (Currently Amended) The olefin-trimerizing process according to claim 10, any one of claims 10 to 17, wherein the olefin is ethylene.